

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the careful consideration and favorable treatment of the claims by the Examiner in which claims 1-17 have been allowed and claim 37 as containing allowable subject matter.

Claims 18-24, 26-28 and 31-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Danssaert et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,525,300).

Claims 25, 29 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Danssaert et al. in view of Burrow et al. (U.S. Patent No. US 2002/0090320)

Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections are moot in view of the present amendments.

More specifically, Applicants have amended independent claims 18 and 20 to recite a device having a controller having a user interface for inputting at least a number of reaction vessels for the study and a first predetermined temperature profile as well as a second predetermined temperature profile. The first predetermined temperature profile is a nonisothermal temperature profile and the second predetermined temperature profile is an isothermal temperature profile. Based on the Examiner's comments, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 18 and 20 should be allowed.

Claim 19 should be allowed as depending from what should be an allowed independent claim 18 and claims 21-27 should be allowed as depending from what should be an allowed independent claim 20.

Claim 28 has been amended to recite a method which includes the steps of: entering a second input using the user interface, where the second input corresponding to an isothermal temperature profile which represents the temperature of at least one of the hot reaction blocks over a time period of the study and entering a third input using the user interface, wherein the third input corresponding to a nonisothermal temperature profile which represents the temperature of at least

one of the hot reaction blocks over a time period of the study. Based on the Examiner's comments, claim 28 should now be allowed.

Claim 32 has been amended in a manner similar to how claim 28 has been amended and therefore should be allowed for the same reasons. Claims 29-31 and 34-35 should be allowed as depending from what should be an allowed independent claim 32.

Claim 36 has been amended by incorporating the subject matter of claim 37 which was indicated as containing allowable subject matter and therefore, claim 36 is in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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